

RESOURCES for AGING
December 4, 2006 (Vol. 3 No. 16)

Welcome to Resources for Aging, the electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) in Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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Complimentary issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on an e-newsletter distribution list. Printed copies are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Also, past issues can be accessed at www.miseniors.net.

Resources for Aging is distributed every three weeks. The next issue will be dated January 9, 2007.

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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AGING NETWORK NEWS/RESOURCES

The Governor Announces Own Your Future Campaign

Last week, **Gov. Jennifer Granholm** announced a joint federal-state initiative to increase the public awareness of the importance of planning ahead for future long-term care (LTC) needs. Michigan is one of only six states nationwide participating in the Own Your Future LTC Awareness Campaign.

“Having a responsible LTC plan before it is needed gives a family more control over its future, and can prevent a great deal of emotional and financial hardship,” the Governor said. “Michigan’s health care and LTC systems will save millions of dollars if everyone starts to think about LTC needs now.”

A direct mail campaign, funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is targeting households with members between the ages of 45 and 65. During November, a letter from the Governor Granholm, discussing the importance of LTC planning, was sent to households in the targeted range, along with an insert of state resources currently available to citizens seeking LTC. To receive this LTC kit, call 866/752-6582 (866/PLAN-LTC).

The Governor also cited national figures that clearly indicate many Michigan citizens will require LTC. She said that, of all persons, age 65 or older, approximately 60 percent will need some type of LTC services, and approximately 40 percent will need nursing home care during their lives.

“We want everyone in Michigan, especially seniors, to be aware that LTC planning options exist for them in many forms and at many levels,” said OSA Director **Sharon Gire**. “Only through continued collaboration will our citizens understand that critical resources exist today to help them. We’re fortunate to have a governor who is clearly recognizing the importance of a seamless and functioning LTC system for the people of Michigan, so those who need assistance can own their own future.”

For more information, call **TJ Bucholz** at MDCH (517/241-2112)

MDCH Develops Michigan Network of LTC Resources

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), at the direction of **Gov. Granholm**, has been developing a network of long-term care (LTC) resources that will benefit those seeking LTC services.

In particular, this will involve the Michigan LTC Connection, the state's Single Point of Entry (SPE) system for providing one-stop LTC support and services in four pilot locations across the state.

"Of the 13 million Americans in need of long-term care (LTC) today, nearly 40 percent of them are between the ages of 18 and 64, says **Mike Head**, Director of the Michigan Office of LTC Supports and Services. "Here in Michigan, meeting the needs of Michigan's senior citizens and disabled citizens continues to be a priority, thanks to the Governor's commitment to supporting our LTC system."

During 2004, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), in full partnership with the US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), applied for and received a \$5 million grant to strengthen and improve Michigan's LTC criminal background check laws, and to provide \$1.5 million in additional abuse and neglect training to thousands of Michigan LTC workers.

In June, 2005, the Governor accepted recommendations from her 21-member Medicaid LTC Task Force. She also signed Executive Order 2005-14 to establish the Office of LTC Supports and Services. That office has already begun to assist in the development and implementation of policy and strategies for the task force recommendations.

Also In 2005, the Governor announced a Jobs Today Initiative to modernize 75 of Michigan's oldest nursing homes, and replace them with homes that permit more privacy, dignity and family-friendly designs.

Last June, the Governor announced four awards worth nearly \$3.5 million over two years for LTC Single Point of Entry (SPE) demonstration sites in four regions of the State: Detroit (\$13.1 million) to serve the Cities of Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Harper Woods, and the Grosse Pointes; Southwest Michigan (\$7.2 million) to serve Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties; Upper Peninsula (\$5.4 million) to serve the entire Upper Peninsula; and Western Michigan (\$9.1 million) to serve Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana and Ottawa Counties.

The establishment of these four SPEs demonstration sites for LTC was a key recommendation in the final report submitted by the Governors Medicaid LTC Task Force.

For more information, call **TJ Bucholz** at MDCH (517/241-2112).

WHO and MDCH Monitor Flu Cases in Michigan

Each year, on average, 5-20 percent of our country's population gets the flu. More than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications, and about 36,000 die from the flu. Many of these are senior adults.

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is monitoring three types of influenza (or flu) in our state: Seasonal Influenza, Avian Influenza and Pandemic Influenza.

Seasonal influenza is a respiratory disease that is caused by a virus. It occurs every

year, and is caused by influenza viruses that are highly contagious between humans. Avian influenza is caused by avian, or bird influenza viruses. These occur naturally in the bird population. Pandemic influenza is a flu that causes global, or world-wide outbreak of serious illness. This may be avian, swine or other flu. Pandemic flu spreads easily from person to person.

Avian flu is being tracked worldwide by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other federal agencies. Michigan has a comprehensive plan that is updated on a regular basis to monitor, track and act if Avian flu becomes a threat to Michigan. At the present time, WHO says the current phase of Avian flu is at phase “3.” An outbreak must be at phase “6” to be a pandemic. Phase “3” means no or very limited human to human transmission.

According to MDCH, the Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) in Atlanta is expected to upgrade Michigan flu activity to “sporadic” for next week’s report. This is the lowest level of influenza activity the US government tracks.

The CDC also reports that nearly 2.4 million doses of flu vaccine have been shipped to Michigan. So, it is recommended that anyone, especially senior adults and those who work with senior adults, who have not received a vaccination should talk to their medical care provider or local health department about getting one. It is a risky business for elders who skip their flu shot and hope to avoid getting sick, especially those with LTC health conditions.

For more information about seasonal flu, go to www.cdc.gov/flu, the official website of the US Department of Health and Human Services which answers frequently asked questions on pandemic flu and the flu in general, or go to www.pandemicflu.gov, which is the website exclusively devoted to the topic.

Also call **Sherri King** at OSA (517/373-4064) or e-mail her at kings1@michigan.gov.

Focus: HOPE Brings Holiday Cheer to Senior Adults

For many, the holiday season is a time for family, friends, love, giving and presents. But for others it can be a difficult time of loneliness and poverty.

Focus: Hope, a nationally recognized civil and human rights organization in based in Detroit, conducts an annual holiday program to match sponsors with low income senior adults and families in an attempt to share the joy of the giving.

Again this holiday season, Focus: HOPE is recruiting volunteers to help make it a memorable one for recipients. Through this program, individual and group donors provide a low-income family with provisions for a complete holiday meal, along with clothing and/or toys for the children and grandchildren.

Donors, such as businesses, schools and service organizations are matched with homebound and low-income elders. They provide fresh foods and a gift. Donors also may spend an afternoon or evening with a senior adult, and perhaps even share a family dinner with that person.

In addition, Focus: HOPE is giving senior adults in the Detroit area another holiday gift. Senior adults are packing their things and preparing to move into The Village of

Oakman Manor, a 55-unit senior housing facility. Its grand opening is scheduled for the middle of December.

The four-story building offers one-bedroom apartments with common areas for socializing, as well as rent subsidies for low-income residents. It is the first new construction in the Focus: HOPE area of the city in more than 50 years, and it is expected to spur more new development in this “Cool Cities” neighborhood.

This new senior housing project was spearheaded by Presbyterian Villages of Michigan in cooperation with Focus: HOPE which also operates a food center a few blocks away where many senior adults receive monthly food supplements. Funding came through the US Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD), the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), Wayne County, the City of Detroit, and others.

For more information about these Focus: HOPE programs or to volunteer for its holiday program, go to www.focushope.edu or call 313/494-5500.

GVSU to Sponsor Art & Science of Aging Conference

Grand Valley State University (GVSU) will conduct its 2nd Annual Art & Science of Aging Conference **February 16** in the Loosemore Auditorium at the GVSU Pew Campus in Grand Rapids. This year's theme is Creativity, Growth and Social Transformation.

Keynote speaker will be nationally-recognized gerontologist **Gene Cohen**, Director of the Center on Aging, Health & Humanities at George Washington University, and author of The Mature Mind: the Positive Power of the Aging Brain.

The conference will feature sessions on Wisdom and Creativity in the Aging Population, Protecting and Supporting Frail Elders, Intergenerational Family Supports and the Elderly, Leisure for the Elderly, Creating Comity for Aging Demographic Realities, and How to Know an Elder Friendly Community When You See It..

It also will feature screenings of two films: “SAGE and the Open Road,” and “America Looks at Aging,” as well as a book signing event for Dr. Cohen who will have his books for sale during the conference.

For more information, call 616/331-7105

AAA-1B Completes Needs Survey of Elder Chaldeans

On November 30, Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA-1B) held in press conference to announce the completion of the 2006 Chaldean Elders Needs Report to document the unique needs of Chaldean older adults in Southeast Michigan.

This report offers a broad picture of Chaldean elders, and the problems they face. It contains key findings and potential solutions. The intent is utilize this document to foster new partnerships, projects and programs that will respond to the identified problems.

The survey resulted from a collaborative effort by the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity (CALC) and AAA-1B. It found that many barriers impinge upon the ability of

Chaldean elders and caregivers to access needed health and human services. Therefore, they are underserved by many human service systems.

While organizations, such as the CALC and the Arab and Chaldean Council, help address some basic needs, traditional health and social service providers are often unable to overcome language and cultural barriers to adequately serve this population. Social isolation among Chadean senior adults is one of the top problems they face.

To help community leaders better understand these issues, representatives from the Chaldean, health services, social services and philanthropic communities, as well as the local media, were invited to attend the November 30 press conference.

To access the full report, go to www.aaa1b.com, and click on Surveys and Reports. For more information, call **Amy Smyth** at AAA-1B (248/213-0545).

CTAA Offers Free Senior Transportation Toolkit

The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) offers a free Senior Transportation Toolkit that offers in-depth case studies, examples of best practices, ideas for senior transportation and coordination, and a new investment guide.

The Senior Transportation Toolkit is available in CD and paper format. To obtain a toolkit, call toll-free 800/891-0590, ext 727, or e-mail to hardin@ctaa.org.

The CTAA is a professional membership organization of transportation providers , human service organizations and advocates for creating mobility for all. It provides information and technical assistance, almost all of it free.

In addition to senior transportation, CTAA provides information on federal legislation and regulations. This information can be obtained by subscribing to a free e-newsletter entitled Capitol Clips. To subscribe go to www.ctaa.org or e-mail to zeilinger@ctaa.org.

For more information, go to www.ctaa.org. To reach the CTAA Senior Mobility page, go to www.ctaa.org/ntrc/is_senior.asp.

OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS

State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)

The next meeting will be held 9:30 a.m. **December 7** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at steiners@michigan.gov.

Detroit Kinship Advocacy Workshop

This event, sponsored by OSA, and hosted by the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (AAA-1A) and the Kinship Care Resource Center at Michigan State University (MSU), will be held 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **December 15** at the Northwest Activity Center, 18100 Meyers in **Detroit**. It will focus on giving grandparents and other relatives raising children tools to advocate for the passage of a relative guardianship bill for kinship

families to give financial assistance to relative caregivers who have guardianship of the children in their care. Social service professionals, students, and the general public also are invited. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call **Ana Agyem** toll-free at MSU (800/535-1218) or e-mail her at kinship@msu.edu.

OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors

The December 12 meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. **January 9** in the First Floor Conference Room of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (AAAAM), 6105 West St. Joseph in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail to bowlinj1@michigan.gov, or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at ablan@iserv.net.

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)

The December 15 meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held 10:00 a.m. **January 20** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail to albrechtc@michigan.gov.

EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

Christmas Party, sponsored by the Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency for elders age 60 and older **December 7** at the Escanaba Senior Center in **Escanaba**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 906/786-8850.

Coping with the Holidays After the Death of a Loved One, a free seminar sponsored by Hospice of Central Michigan and the Wooden Rocker **December 9** at the Wooden Rocker in **Mt. Pleasant** to offer tips and suggestions on how to get through the holidays while grieving. For more information, call 989/773-6137.

Miscellaneous State Surplus Auction, sponsored by the State of Michigan State Surplus Program **December 9** at its Warehouse Facility on North Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in **Lansing** to auction a wide variety of items including office equipment and furniture (file cabinets, chairs, desks, bookcases, desk lamps, fax machines, tools, binders and office supplies). For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/surplus and click on "State Surplus Auction" or call 517/335-8816.

Identity Theft Presentation, sponsored by the Gratiot Commission on Aging (CoA) **December 11** at the CoA in **Ithaca** to talk about how to protect yourself and your identity. For more information, call 989/875-5246.

Lunch, Learn and Live, a luncheon and senior adult gathering sponsored by the Gratiot Medical Center **December 15** in the modular classroom at the Medical Center in **Alma** about preventing slips, trips and falls. For more information, or to make a luncheon reservation, call toll-free 800/999-3199.

Prime Time Holiday Party and Silent Auction, sponsored by the East Lansing Seniors' Program **December 20** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**,

featuring Victorian Singers dressed in period costumes, a turkey dinner, and an auction to benefit the Greater Lansing Food Bank. For more information, call 517/337-1113.

Understanding Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter **January 16** at Covenant Village of the Great Lakes in **Grand Rapids**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

Legal & Financial Issues: Tips for Making Financial and Medical Decisions on Behalf of a Person with Dementia, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter **January 23** at Covenant Village of the Great Lakes in **Grand Rapids**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

Public Forum, sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the US Department of Transportation (DOT) **January 25-26** at the Mitretek Systems Corporate Headquarters in **Falls Church, VA** to obtain public testimony on human factors research necessary to support advanced vehicle safety technologies. For more information, call 202/366-5675. See also the FEDERAL REGISTER section of this issue (below).

Strategies for Navigating the Dementia Journey, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter **January 30** at Covenant Village of the Great Lakes in **Grand Rapids**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

2nd Annual Art & Science of Aging Conference: Creativity, Growth and Social Transformations, sponsored by Grand Valley State University (GVSU) **February 16** in the Loosemore Auditorium at the GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, call 616/331-7105. See also the AGING NETWORK NEWS/ACTIVITIES section of this issue (above).

Understanding Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter **March 6** at the Ionia County Commission on Aging (CoA) in **Ionia**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

Legal & Financial Issues: Tips for Making Financial and Medical Decisions on Behalf of a Person with Dementia, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter **March 13** at the Ionia County Commission on Aging (CoA) in **Ionia**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

Strategies for Navigating the Dementia Journey, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter **March 20** at the Ionia County Commission on Aging (CoA) in **Ionia**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

Annual Meeting and Public Policy Forum, entitled “A Public Sector for the Public Good: Engaging Citizens in a Shared Vision” and sponsored by the Michigan League for Human Services (MLHS) **December 7** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mlhs.org or call 517/487-5436.

20th Annual Symposium on Geriatric Medicine at Michigan State University and the 6th Annual Meeting of the Primary Care Dementia Network, sponsored by the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan State University (MSU) and the Primary Care Dementia Network of the Michigan Dementia Coalition **December 8** at the MSU Kellogg Center in **East Lansing** to provide an opportunity for primary care practitioners to examine the changing demographics in Michigan, and how these changes, along with increasing prevalence of dementia, will necessarily alter the way in which health care services will be delivered. For more information, call 517/353-7828.

8th Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference, entitled “Vitality and Inspiration” and sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **March 29, 2007** at WSU in **Detroit** for creative works (such as art, writing, ceramics, needlework, photography, woodworking, singing, dance, etc.) by nonprofessional artists age 55 and older. For more information and/or submission guidelines, go to www.ioq.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

MICHIGAN NONPROFIT SEMINARS/TRAINING EVENTS

Caregiver Tips for Surviving the Holidays, a free “Opening New Doors Community Education Program” sponsored by the Macomb County Senior Citizen Services Adult Day Services Program **December 7** at the Southeast Health Center in **St. Clair Shores**. For more information, call 586/466-6817 or e-mail to kaw.kozlinski@macombcountymi.gov.

Aging and MS – Falls and MS and Cognition, a free 2006 Fall Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **December 12** at the Freer House, adjacent to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.ioq.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

DEMENTIA EVENTS/MEETINGS

6th Annual Meeting: Providing Health Care Services for Older Adults 2006-2030, sponsored by the Primary Care Dementia Network **December 8** at the Michigan State University (MSU) Kellogg Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/353-7828 or e-mail to yonker@msu.edu.

Understanding Alzheimer’s, an introductory program sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association Great Lakes Chapter **December 11** at Foote Hospital in **Jackson** to learn how to recognize possible signs of Alzheimer’s disease; better understand how Alzheimer’s is diagnosed; recognize the effects of Alzheimer’s on the brain; and gain access to community resources and services. For more information, go to www.alzmigreatlakes.org or call 800/272-3900.

OTHER MICHIGAN EVENTS/MEETINGS

Holiday Bazaar, Quilt Raffle and Bake Sale, sponsored by the Isabelle County Commission on Aging (CoA) **December 5** at the CoA Senior Center in **Mt. Pleasant**. For more information, call 989/772-0748.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

Choices for Independence: A National Leadership Summit, sponsored by the Administration on Aging (AoA) **December 5-6** at the Renaissance Hotel in **Washington, DC**. For more information, call toll-free 877/657-4254 or e-mail to cblue@betah.com.

Being Ageless: Living Well at Any Age, sponsored by the Omega Institute **January 12-14, 2007** at the Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa in **Fort Lauderdale, FL** on how to live well, live long, and live with meaning and purpose. For more information, go to www.eomega.org or call toll-free 800/944-1001.

Health Action 2007, a conference sponsored by Families USA **January 25-27, 2007** at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.familiesusa.org or call 202/628-3030.

2007 Annual Housing Policy Conference and Lobby Day, sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition **February 26-27, 2007** at the Capital Hilton in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.nlihc.org or call 202/662-1530.

2007 Joint Conference of the National Council on Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA), to be held **March 7-10, 2007** at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, go to www.agingconference.org or call toll-free 800/537-9728, ext. 9675.

SKILLPATH/COMPUMASTER NONPROFIT SEMINARS

For more information about these seminars, go to www.skillpath.com. To register and receive fee discounts, call Kathy Hepker 800/873-7545 (ext. 1137) and say you heard about it in the OSA e-newsletter.

The Conference for Women, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 6** in **Kalamazoo**, **December 7** in **Lansing**, **December 8** in **Grand Rapids** and **January 12** in **Traverse City**.

Getting the Most from Microsoft Excel, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 8** in **Troy**.

Excelling as a First-Time Manager or Supervisor, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 11** in **Marquette**, **December 12**

in **Traverse City, December 13** in **Grand Rapids, December 14** in **Flint, December 15** in **Saginaw, February 6** in **Sault Ste. Marie, February 7** in **Lansing, February 8** in **Dearborn, February 9** in **Farmington Hills, March 12** in **Troy** and **March 13** in **Ann Arbor**.

How to Excel at Managing and Supervising People, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 11-12** in **Troy**.

Managing Multiple Projects, Objectives and Deadlines, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 13** in **Farmington Hills, December 14** in **Detroit, December 15** in **Grand Rapids, December 16** in **Grand Rapids, January 10** in **Troy, January 11** in **Dearborn, January 12** in **Ann Arbor, January 17** in **Flint** and **February 15** in **Jackson**.

The Essentials of Communicating with Diplomacy and Professionalism, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 13-14** in **Traverse City**.

The Administrative Assistants Conference, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 14** in **Troy**.

Records Retention, Retrieval and Destruction, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 14** in **Grand Rapids**.

The Conference on Leadership Development and Teambuilding, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 14** in **Farmington Hills** and **February 27** in **Kalamazoo**.

Managing Emotions and Thriving Under Pressure, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 18** in **Farmington Hills, December 19** in **Dearborn, January 22** in **Troy, January 23** in **Flint** and **January 24** in **Ann Arbor**.

Excelling as a Highly Effective Team Leader, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 18-19** in **Kalamazoo, January 23-24** in **Lansing** and **January 25-26** in **Saginaw**.

The Conference for Adobe Photoshop Users, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 18** in **Marquette** and **December 19** in **Saginaw**.

Business Writing Basics for Professionals, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 20** in **Troy, December 21** in **Ann Arbor** and **February 28** in **Grand Rapids**.

How to Become a Better Communicator, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 21** in **Lansing, January 22** in **Farmington Hills, January 23** in **Ann Arbor, February 15** in **Dearborn** and **February 16** in **Troy**.

Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **January 16** in **Kalamazoo**.

How to Build Powerful PowerPoint Presentations, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **January 18** in **Ann Arbor**, **January 19** in **Farmington Hills** and **February 12** in **Troy**.

The Conference on Customer Service, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **January 23** in **Grand Rapids**, **February 12** in **Lansing** and **February 13** in **Saginaw**.

Advanced Microsoft Excel Techniques, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **January 23-24** in **Saginaw**, **January 25-26** in **Kalamazoo**, **February 5-6** in **Farmington Hills** and **February 7-8** in **Ann Arbor**.

The Indispensable Assistant, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University for secretaries, administrative assistants and support people **January 26** in **Lansing**.

Coaching and Teambuilding Skills for Managers and Supervisors, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **February 9** in **Traverse City**.

The Managers and Supervisors Conference, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **February 13** in **Grand Rapids**.

How to Effectively Manage Multiple Locations, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **February 20-21** in **Farmington Hills** and **February 22-23** in **Grand Rapids**.

For more information about this seminar,
go to www.compumaster.net or call toll-free 800/867-4340.

Getting the Most from Microsoft Excel, conducted by CompuMaster, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 8** in **Troy**.

For more information about these seminars,
go to www.nationalseminarstraining.com or call toll-free 800/258-7246.

Human Resources (HR) Professionals Who've Recently Assumed HR Responsibilities, conducted by the National Seminars Group, a nonprofit division of the Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center **December 11** in **Traverse City**, **December 12** in **Grand Rapids**, **December 13** in **Lansing** and **December 15** in **Farmington Hills**.

How to be a Dynamic Trainer, conducted by the National Seminars Group, a nonprofit division of the Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center **January 9** in **Grand Rapids**, **January 10** in **Lansing**, **January 11** in **Flint** and **January 12** in **Farmington Hills**.

Communicating with Confidence, conducted by the National Seminars Group, a nonprofit division of the Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center **January 9** in **Grand Rapids**, **January 10** in **Lansing** and **January 11** in **Southfield**.

FOR-PROFIT TRAINING EVENTS/RESOURCES

The following information about for-profit training events and resources is presented as a public service for informational purposes only, and should not be interpreted as constituting OSA promotion or endorsement. OSA does not receive financial or any other benefit for providing this information.

For-Profit Seminars/Training Events

For more information about any of these seminars,
go to www.pryor.com or call toll-free 800/556-2998.

Microsoft Excel: Excel Basics, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **December 6** in Dearborn, **December 6** in Grand Rapids, **December 7** in Lansing, **December 11** in Petoskey, **December 13** in Traverse City, **December 14** in Jackson, **December 18** in Saginaw and **December 20** in Flint.

Excel: Beyond the Basics, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **December 6** in Kalamazoo, **December 7** in Dearborn, **December 7** in Grand Rapids, **December 8** in Lansing, **December 12** in Petoskey, **December 14** in Traverse City, **December 15** in Jackson, **December 19** in Saginaw and **December 21** in Flint.

Excel Basics, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **December 6** in Dearborn, **December 6** in Grand Rapids, **December 14** in Jackson and **December 20** in Flint.

The Outstanding Receptionist, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **December 18** in Marquette.

Managing Emotions Under Pressure, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **January 8** in Petoskey, **January 9** in Traverse City, **January 10** in Saginaw, **January 11** in Flint, **January 22** in Kalamazoo, **January 23** in Grand Rapids, **January 24** in Lansing, **January 25** in Ann Arbor, **January 26** in Troy, **February 1** in Jackson and **February 2** in Southfield.

Managing the Front Desk, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **January 9** in Troy, **January 10** in Ann Arbor and **January 11** in Grand Rapids.

How to Supervise People, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **January 16, 2007** in Marquette.

Unacceptable Employee Behavior, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **January 19** in Flint, **January 29** in Kalamazoo, **January 30** in Grand Rapids, **January 31** in Ann Arbor, **February 1** in Dearborn and **February 2** in Troy.

Dealing with Difficult People, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **January 22, 2007** in Marquette, **March 6** in Kalamazoo, **March 7** in Lansing, **March 8** in Jackson, **March 9** in Southfield, **March 13** in Ann Arbor, **March 14** in Dearborn, **March 15** in Troy, **March 12** in Grand Rapids, **March 27** in Petoskey, **March 28** in Traverse City, **March 29** in Saginaw and **March 30** in Flint.

Managing Conflict and Confrontation, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **February 6** in Ann Arbor, **February 7** in Dearborn, **February 22** in Lansing and **February 23** in Grand Rapids.

Excelling as a First-Time Supervisor, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **February 8** in Jackson, **February 9** in Jackson, **February 12** in Kalamazoo, **February 13** in Grand Rapids, **February 14** in Lansing, **February 15** in Ann Arbor, **February 16** in Troy, **February 20** in Petoskey, **February 21** in Traverse City, **February 22** in Saginaw and **February 23** in Flint.

Criticism & Discipline Skills, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **February 9** in Marquette.

Managing Multiple Priorities, Projects & Deadlines, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **February 14** in Flint, **February 15** in Dearborn, **February 26** in Kalamazoo, **February 27** in Grand Rapids, **February 28** in Lansing, **March 1** in Ann Arbor and **March 2** in Troy.

Grammar & Proofreading, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **March 5** in Petoskey, **March 6** in Traverse City, **March 7** in Saginaw, **March 8** in Flint, **March 9** in Marquette, **March 12** in Kalamazoo, **March 13** in Grand Rapids, **March 14** in Lansing, **March 15** in Ann Arbor, **March 16** in Troy and **March 22** in Jackson.

Microsoft Office, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **March 16** in Flint and **March 22** in Ann Arbor.

For more information about these seminars,
go to www.careertrack.com or call toll-free 800/556-3009.

Managing Emotions Under Pressure, conducted by Career Track **January 8** in Petoskey, **January 9** in Traverse City, **January 10** in Saginaw, **January 11** in Flint, **January 22** in Kalamazoo, **January 23** in Grand Rapids, **January 24** in Lansing, **January 25** in Ann Arbor, **January 26** in Troy, **February 1** in Jackson and **February 2** in Southfield.

Excelling as a First-Time Supervisor, conducted by Career Track **February 8** in Jackson, **February 9** in Dearborn, **February 12** in Kalamazoo, **February 13** in Grand Rapids, **February 14** in Lansing, **February 15** in Ann Arbor, **February 16** in Troy, **February 20** in Petoskey, **February 21** in Traverse City, **February 22** in Saginaw and **February 23** in Flint.

FEDERAL REGISTER
(October 23 -- November 10)

HUD Announces Michigan Grant Recipients for Service Coordinators

See the Federal Register dated **November 13** (Vol. 71, No. 218). Go to "Housing and Urban Development Department" and see "Notices, Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards." This notice from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announces HUD competitive grants totaling \$15,433,482 that have been

awarded to 92 recipients. The grants will fund Service Coordinators in the Multi-family Housing Program. Service Coordinators allow multi-family housing owners to assist elderly individuals and non-elderly individuals with disabilities living in HUD assisted housing and in the surrounding area to obtain needed supportive services from the community that will allow them to continue living as independently as possible in their homes. The four Michigan grant recipients are the Deaconess Senior Citizen Corporation in Southgate (\$208,156), Phoenix Place Ldha LP in Pontiac (\$217,103), St. George Tower Ltd. in Clinton Township (\$208,106) and Ukrainian Village, Inc. in Warren (\$208,106). For more information, call 202/708-3000.

FCC Seeks Public Comment for Hearing Aid/Wireless Phone Compatibility

See the Federal Register dated **November 15** (Vol. 71, No. 220). Go to “Federal Communications Commission” and see “Notices, Reports and Guidance Documents.” This notice from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) refers to the Hearing Aid Compatibility Report that was issued by FCC staff members in 2003. This report adopted several measures to enhance the ability of persons with hearing disabilities to access digital wireless communications. Among other actions, the FCC established technical standards that digital wireless handsets must meet in order to be considered hearing aid compatible. The FCC now invites the public comment by **December 15** on the three topics to be addressed in the FCC Hearing Aid Compatibility staff report. They are, the impact of FCC rules in achieving greater compatibility between hearing aids and digital wireless phones; the development of new technologies that could provide greater or more efficient accessibility of wireless communications to hearing aid users; and the impact of the compatibility requirements on cochlear implant and middle ear implant users, and their ability to use digital wireless phones. For more information, call 202/418-1310.

DOE to Give a Grant for Technologies for Successful Aging

See the Federal Register dated **November 17** (Vol. 71, No. 222). Go to “Education Department” and see “Notices, Grants, National Institute on Disability.” This notice from the US Department of Education (DOE) invites applications for a single grant award for fiscal year (FY) 2007. The DOE has requested \$106,705,000 for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research Program, of which it intends to use an estimated \$900,000 for the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) for Technologies for Successful Aging. The purpose of the RERC program is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act. For FY 2007, the competition for this grant award will focus on projects designed to improve rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals with disabilities, in particular for technologies for successful aging. These projects must research, develop and evaluate innovative technologies and approaches that will improve the quality of life of older persons with disabilities, and promote health, safety, independence and active engagement. Only applications that meet this absolute priority will be considered. The deadline for submitting applications is **January 31**. Eligible applicants include states, public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies, and public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations.

NHTSA to Conduct Public Forum on Vehicle Safety Technologies

See the Federal Register dated **November 20** (Vol. 71, No. 223). Go to “National Highway Traffic Safety Administration” and see “Notices, Meetings.” This notice from

the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the US Department of Transportation (DOT) announces a public forum that will be held **January 25-26** at the Mitretek Systems Corporate Headquarters in Falls Church VA. The purpose of this forum is to identify human factor research to help guide the development and deployment of advanced vehicle safety technologies (AVST) that can improve safety and minimize potential adverse effects. AVST such as collision warning systems can assist drivers in preventing crashes and minimizing harm. The controls, displays and operation of AVST are fundamental elements that influence the safety effectiveness of these technologies. The ability of drivers to recognize, understand and properly respond to the visual, auditory, and other feedback from these technologies is influenced by the degree to which their designs are compatible with drivers' capabilities. The forum participants will discuss the impact of current and future AVST on driving and safety performance; outline high priority areas for research; and identify organizations to sponsor the research. For more information, call 202/366-5675.

CMS Announces Compliance with Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act

See the Federal Register dated **November 22** (Vol. 71, No. 225). Go to "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services" and see "Notices, Reports." This notice from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **September 18**, announces the notification and obligation of Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act. One purpose of the act is to require federal agencies to be accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws. In support of this purpose, Congress found that agencies cannot be run effectively if those agencies practice or tolerate discrimination. The No Fear Act also requires all agencies to provide this notice to federal employees, former federal employees, and applicants for federal employment to inform them of the rights and protections available under the federal antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws. For more information, call 410/786-5110.

CMS Says Hospitals Must Notify Patients About Hospital Discharge Rights

See the Federal Register dated **November 27** (Vol. 71, No. 227). Go to "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services" and see "Rules, Medicare." This final rule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **July 1**, outlines the requirements for how hospitals must notify Medicare beneficiaries who are hospital inpatients about their hospital discharge rights, including their appeal rights at discharge. Notice is required both for original Medicare beneficiaries and for beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans and other Medicare health plans subject to the MA regulations. Hospitals will use a revised version of the Important Message from Medicare (IM), an existing statutorily required notice, to explain the discharge rights. Hospitals must use the IM within two days of admission, and must obtain the signature of the beneficiary, or his or her representative. Hospitals also will deliver a copy of the signed notice prior to discharge, but not more than two days before the discharge. For beneficiaries who request an appeal, the hospital will deliver a more detailed notice. For more information, call 410/786-7803.

DOL Requests Comments Concerning the Family and Medical Leave Act

See the Federal Register dated **December 1** (Vol. 71, No. 231). Go to "Employment Standards Administration" and see "Proposed Rules." This notice from the Employment Standards Division of the US Department of Labor (DOL) requests public comment by

February 2 related to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). DOL invites interested parties having knowledge of, or experiences with, the FMLA to submit comments, and it welcomes any pertinent information that will provide a basis for ascertaining the effectiveness of the current implementing regulations, and the DOL's administration of the act. After it became law, the FMLA became effective for most covered employers. The FMLA entitles eligible employees of covered employers to take up to a total of 12 weeks of unpaid leave during a 12 month period for the birth of a child; for the placement of a child for adoption or foster care; for caring for a newborn or newly-placed child; to care for a spouse, parent, son or daughter with a serious health condition; or when the employee is unable to work due to the employee's own serious health condition. For more information, call 202/693-0066.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

The following bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. The list does not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor does it indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority. All of this information is current, as of the date of this issue. But it is subject to change at any time through legislative action.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to www.legislature.mi.gov (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under "Legislative Bill Search." Then click on "Go!" and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a "PDF" or "TXT" box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website (www.michiganlegislature.org) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions. If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, you may call OSA Director **Sharon Gire** at 517/373-7876 or e-mail her at osadirector@michigan.gov.

State Legislature Adjourns for the Holidays

The Michigan State Legislature will adjourn **December 14** for the holidays. This will end the 2005-2206 legislative session. Bills introduced during the past two years will die. To become law, the must be re-introduced after **January 1**.

The State Legislature plans to reconvene in **January** to begin its new 2007-2008 legislative session.

New House Bills (November 13 – December 1)

House Bill (HB) 6619 of 2006

Communications; telecommunications; mobile friendly site for directory assistance access to state employees; create. Amends Public Act (PA) 179 of 1991. Sponsored by **Rep. Chris Kolb** (D-Ann Arbor) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Technology 11-14-06.

House Bill (HB) 6626 of 2006

See **House and Senate Bills that have Moved** (below).

House Bill (HB) 6637 of 2006

Property tax; exemptions; housing exemption for elderly or disabled families; expand to include "limited dividend housing corporation." Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893.

Sponsored by **Rep. David Law** (R-West Bloomfield) and co-sponsored by four others.

Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 11-14-06.

House Bill (HB) 6655 of 2006

Economic development; development incentives; housing renovation program; create.

Creates new act. Sponsored by **Rep. Chris Kolb** (D-Ann Arbor) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 11-14-06.

House Bill (HB) 6658 of 2006

Sales tax; exemptions; church and community-based food pantries; exempt materials used to construct. Amends Public Act (PA) 167 of 1933. Sponsored by **Rep. Tom Pearce** (R-Rockford) and co-sponsored by six others.

Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 11-28-06.

House Bill (HB) 6683 of 2006

Health code; Michigan adverse health care events reporting act; create. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Tie barred with HB 6684 of 2006 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. David Farhat** (R-Fruitport) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6684 of 2006

Health facilities; other; Michigan center for safe health care; create. Creates new act.

Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale) and co-sponsored by no others.

Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6685 of 2006

Health; code; standardized data collection tools and methods under the Michigan adverse health care reporting program; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Tie barred with HB 6683 of 2006 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Carl M. Williams** (D-Saginaw) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6686 of 2006

Health; other; confidentiality of patient safety work product and other records utilized by the Michigan center for safe health care; require. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978.

Sponsored by **Rep. Alma Smith** (D-Ypsilanti) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6687 of 2006

Health; occupations; alternative remediation program; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Edward Gaffney** (R-Grosse Pointe Farms) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6694 of 2006

Local government; bonds; prefunded retiree health care; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 34 of 2001. Sponsored by **Rep. Dave Hildenbrand** (R-Lowell) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Local Government and Urban Policy 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6695 of 2006

Property; conveyances; transfer-on-death deeds; provide for. Amends RS 65 of 1846. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by eight others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6696 of 2006

Health facilities; patients; policy describing rights and responsibilities of patients and residents; include gender identity and expression. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Chris Kolb** (D-Ann Arbor) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6697 of 2006

Cemeteries and funerals; prepaid contracts; prepaid funeral contract funding act; revise scope regarding activities of religious cemeteries. Amends Public Act (PA) 255 of 1986. Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township) and co-sponsored by eight others. Referred to the House Committee on Government Operations 11-30-06.

**New Senate Bills
(November 13 – December 1)**

Senate Bill (SB) 1505 of 2006

Law enforcement; other; automatic external defibrillators in police vehicles; require. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Sen. Gilda Jacobs** (D-Huntington Woods) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 11-28-06.

**House and Senate Bills that have Moved
(November 13 – December 1)**

House Bill (HB) 4337 of 2005

This bill would amend the Income Tax Act to allow a taxpayer to claim an additional exemption of \$1,800 if the taxpayer provides primary care for a parent who is a “senior citizen” and if the Department of Human Services determines that such care prevents institutionalization of that parent. The bill would apply to tax years beginning after December 31, 2004. (An exemption reduces the amount of income tax subject to tax). The bill defines “primary care” to mean acts that meet the physical or mental requirements of a family member who cannot meet those requirements without assistance or supervision, including acts related to health, safety, nutrition, hygiene, homemaking or other activities of daily living. The act currently defines “senior citizen” to mean an individual who is 65 years of age or older, or the un-remarried surviving spouse of an individual who was 65 years of age or older at the time of death. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Sponsored by **Rep. Rick Shaffer** (R-Three Rivers) and co-sponsored by five others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 2-17-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 12-1-05. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 12-1-05. House substitute bill adopted and

amended 11-30-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 5263 (2005)

Financial institutions; banks; reporting of elderly financial abuse; require. Amends Public Act (PA) 276 of 1999. Sponsored by **Rep. LaMar Lemmons III** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services 10-6-05. Notice given to House Discharge Committee 9-21-06. Motion to House Discharge Committee rejected 11-14-06.

House Bill (HB) 5298 (2005)

Financial institutions; savings banks; reporting of elderly financial abuse; require. Amends Public Act (PA) 354 of 1996. Sponsored by **Rep. LaMar Lemmons III** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services 10-18-05. Notice given to House Discharge Committee 9-21-06. Motion to House Discharge Committee rejected 11-14-06.

House Bill (HB) 5338 (2005)

Financial institutions; savings and loan associations; reporting of elderly financial abuse; require. Amends Public Act (PA) 307 of 1980. Sponsored by **Rep. LaMar Lemmons III** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services 10-19-05. Notice given to House Discharge Committee 9-21-06. Motion to House Discharge Committee postponed for a day 11-14-06

House Bill (HB) 5608 of 2006

This bill would enter Michigan into the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact (including life and LTC insurance product regulation). This is said to be a model act developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Each "compacting state" has one member of the Compact Commission created by the compact, for Michigan the Commissioner of the Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS). A state could withdraw from the compact by specifically repealing the statute this bill would create. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Rep. Barbara Farrah** (D-Southgate) and co-sponsored by 26 others. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 1-24-06. House substitute bill adopted by the House 5-2-06. Passed by the House 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 5661 of 2006

This bill would amend the Insurance Code to allow an automobile insurer to offer a premium discount to insureds who were at least 50 years old and successfully completed a traffic accident prevention course that met specified criteria. An insurer could provide the discount for three years after successful completion of an initial or refresher course. The bill would require an initial course to include at least eight hours of classroom instruction taught by an instructor certified by the entity offering the course. A refresher course would have to include at least four hours of classroom instruction taught by an instructor certified by the entity. Additionally, upon successful completion, a course would have to provide a certificate of completion that an insured could use in applying for the premium discount. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Tie barred with HB 5663 of 2006 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Mike Nofs** (R-Battle Creek) and co-sponsored by 39 others. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 2-9-06. Passed by the House 6-22-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions 6-27-06. Discharge Committee approved 9-7-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation 9-7-06. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole 11-29-06.

Senate substitute bill concurred in 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 5923 of 2006

This bill would require the Director of the State Office of Recipient Rights to report directly to the Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). Amends Public Act (PA) 258 of 1974. Sponsored by **Rep. Fran Amos** (R-Waterford) and co-sponsored by 16 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 3-30-06. Referred to second reading 11-28-06.

House Bill (HB) 5927 of 2006

This bill would amend the Mental Health Code to require the Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to appoint a medical director of mental health services. The appointee would have to be an appropriately credentialed psychiatrist. The medical director of mental health services would advise the Director of MDCH on mental health policy and treatment issues; serve as a resource on mental health clinical matters to all divisions within the MDCH, other state departments, and the mental health field; and promote the use of mental health care and treatment best practices that are scientifically validated and recovery oriented. Amends Public Act (PA) 258 of 1974. Sponsored by **Rep. Gabe Leland** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by 14 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 3-30-06. Referred to second reading 11-28-06.

House Bill (HB) 6039 of 2006

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to establish in the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) the Healthcare Information Technology and Infrastructure Development Fund to promote the development and adoption of healthcare information technologies designed to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of health care services. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Tie barred with HB 5336 of 2005 (which mean neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 36 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 5-4-06. House substitute bill adopted by the House 9-20-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 9-20-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 11-9-06. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6076 of 2006

The General Sales and Use Tax Acts exempt from taxation property purchased by a person engaged in the business of constructing, altering, repairing or improving real estate to the extent that this property is affixed by physical connection to, and made a structural part of a nonprofit hospital or nonprofit housing entity. This bill defines "nonprofit hospital" to mean, among other things, a county medical care facility built after December 31, 1995. Amends Public Act (PA) 167 of 1933. Sponsored by **Rep. Rich Brown** (D-Bessemer) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 5-18-06. House substitute bill adopted 11-30-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6077 of 2006

The General Sales and Use Tax Acts exempt from taxation property purchased by a person engaged in the business of constructing, altering, repairing or improving real estate to the extent that this property is affixed by physical connection to, and made a structural part of a nonprofit hospital or nonprofit housing entity. This bill defines "nonprofit hospital" to mean, among other things, a county medical care facility built after December 31, 1995. Amends Public Act (PA) 94 of 1937. Sponsored by **Rep.**

Rich Brown (D-Bessemer) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 5-18-06. House substitute bill adopted 11-30-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6313 of 2006

Insurance; other; Michigan life and health insurance guarantee association; provide for general amendments. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 8-9-06. Referred to second reading 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6323 of 2006

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to allow for electronically transmitted prescriptions and prescriptions transmitted by facsimile. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 8-9-06. House substitute bill adopted 11-28-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-28-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 11-29-06.

House Bill (HB) 6359 of 2006

This bill would amend Chapter 38 (Medicare, Supplemental Policies and Certificates) of the Insurance Code as it relates to Medicare supplemental policies, commonly known as Medigap policies that provide expanded coverage to Medicare recipients. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Richard Ball** (R-Laingsburg) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 8-23-06. House substitute bill adopted and amended 9-19-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 9-19-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 9-20-06. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6392 of 2006

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to expand the provisions of Public Act 24 to include retired dentists. The bill also would expand the provisions of Public Act 25 which provides limited civil immunity from lawsuits to dentists and to podiatrists. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Rick Shaffer** (R-Three Rivers) and co-sponsored by 53 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 9-5-06. House substitute bill adopted and amended 11-30-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-30-06.

House Bill 6603 of 2006

This bill would create a new act under which health insurers and similar entities would be required to provide the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) information each month about whether a covered individual is also a recipient of Medicaid assistance. When a covered individual was a recipient of Medicaid, the bill would require health coverage entities to pay MDCH, or assign right of recovery owed to the entity, for a covered health claim paid by Medicaid; and respond to any inquiry from MDCH about a claim for payment for an item or service submitted not later than three years after it was provided. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 11-9-06. House substitute bill adopted 11-29-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-29-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 11-30-06.

House Bill (HB) 6626 of 2006

Property tax; exemptions; tax exemption for senior housing when property is rehabilitated by a limited dividend housing corporation; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. John Stakoe** (R-Highland) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 11-14-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-30-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 65 of 2005

This bill would amend the General Property Tax Act to permit local tax collecting units to exempt certain nonprofit-owned single family dwellings or duplexes from taxation. Prior to the exemption, the clerk of the tax collecting unit must notify the assessor of the tax collecting unit and the legislative body of each taxing unit affected by the exemption, and allow for a hearing. The exemption would be in effect on the December 31 immediately following the adoption of a resolution exempting the property by the local tax collecting unit, and remain in effect for two years, until the property is occupied, or until a transfer of ownership, whichever comes first. Specifically, the bill would exempt single family dwellings or duplexes owned by charitable nonprofit housing organizations. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Sen. Ron Jelinek** (R-Three Oaks) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 1-25-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole 6-20-06. Senate substitute bill as amended concurred in by the Senate 6-21-06. Passed by the Senate 6-22-06. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 6-22-06. Referred to second reading 11-29-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 309 of 2005

This bill would amend the Identity Theft Protection Act to require a state agency or person doing business in Michigan, that owned or licensed computerized data that included personal identifying information, to notify a Michigan resident or person reasonably believed was acquired, by an unauthorized person; require an agency, or person doing business in Michigan, that maintained computerized data, including personal identifying information, to notify the information's owner or licensee of a breach in the data's security, if personal identifying information were acquired, or the agency or person reasonably believed it was acquired by an unauthorized person; specify that an agency or person, required to give notice under the bill, also would have to notify the Department of Attorney General, the Department of State Police, and a local law enforcement agency; include failure to give the required notice in the Act's list of prohibited activities in the conduct of trade or commerce; and specify civil remedies for a person injured by a violation of the bill. Amends Public Act (PA) 452 of 2004. Sponsored by **Sen. Shirley Johnson** (R-Troy) and co-sponsored by six others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 3-16-06. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 11-30-06. Passed by the Senate 11-30-06. Referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services 11-30-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 465 of 2005

This bill would amend the public health code to require an individual licensed under the Public Health Code to keep and maintain a record for each patient (as currently required of a health facility or agency); require the records maintained by a licensee, or a health facility or agency, to be kept for at least seven years, unless a longer period of time is required under federal or state laws or regulations or by generally accepted standards of medical practice. However, a record that has been kept for less than seven years could be destroyed if the licensee or health facility or agency followed procedures specified in the bill. The bill also provides a mechanism by which a licensee or health facility or agency could dispose of patient health records older than seven years. In

addition, it requires a licensee, facility or agency, that was unable to comply with the record maintenance requirements, to contract with another provider to do so; require a licensee, facility or agency, upon ceasing to practice or operate, to notify patients and the department, and to either transfer or destroy the records, as provided; and require an applicant for licensure or license renewal to include an affidavit concerning his or her written policy for the maintenance of patient medical records and the proper transfer or disposal of those records, if he or she ceases to practice, or closes the practice as specified in the bill. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Gilda Jacobs** (D-Huntington Woods) and co-sponsored by 16 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 5-5-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 4-26-06. Passed by the Senate 4-27-06. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 4-27-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-30-06. Returned to the Senate 11-30-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 466 of 2005

This bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to increase from six to seven years the length of time a provider must retain a record of the services, supplies or equipment provided to a person enrolled in the Medicaid program. The bill also would require a provider to protect, maintain, retain, and dispose of patient medical records and other individually identifying information in accordance with the act, any other applicable state or federal law, and the most recent provider agreement. Furthermore, the bill would prescribe standards for the disposal of a patient's records or identifying information. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Bruce Patterson** (R-Canton) and co-sponsored by 12 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 5-5-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 4-26-06. Passed by the Senate 4-27-06. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 4-27-06. Referred to second reading 11-28-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 468 of 2005

This bill would amend the Freedom of Information Act. It allows a public body to exempt from disclosure as a public record certain information and documents, i.e. information of a personal nature if public disclosure of that information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of an individual's privacy. The bill also would include protected health information as defined under federal law. Amends Public Act (PA) 442 of 1976. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by 14 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 5-5-05. Passed by the Senate 4-27-06. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 4-27-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-30-06. Returned to the Senate 11-30-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 701 of 2005

This bill would amend the uniform crime reporting Act to require law enforcement agencies to enter information into the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) when a person who was believed to be unable to return to his or her residence without assistance was reported missing. Amends Public Act (PA) 319 of 1968. Sponsored by **Sen. Cameron Brown** (R-Sturgis). Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary 8-31-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 6-28-06. Passed by the Senate 6-29-06. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 6-29-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 11-28-06. Returned to the Senate 11-28-06. Given immediate effect by the Senate 11-29-06. Bill ordered enrolled 11-29-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1017 of 2006

This bill would amend the Public School Employees Retirement Act to permit a retirant (i.e., a person who retires and is due retirement payments) to select a new spouse as a retirement allowance beneficiary if a previous spouse dies, or if the retirant was not married at the time of retirement. Amends Public Act (PA) 300 of 1980. Sponsored by **Sen. Ron Jelinek** (R-Three Oaks) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Education 1-31-06. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole 6-29-06. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 9-6-06. Passed by the Senate 9-12-06. Referred to the House Committee on Education 9-12-06. Referred to second reading 11-29-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1274 of 2006

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require each life support vehicle to be equipped with an automated external defibrillator (AED) within nine months after the bill's effective date; and require a local medical control authority, within six months after the bill's effective date, to establish protocols to ensure that each life support vehicle was equipped with an AED, and that each emergency services personnel was trained properly to use the AED. An AED is a device that analyzes a victim's heart rhythm and automatically delivers the appropriate electric shock necessary to restore a regular rhythm. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Gilda Jacobs** (D-Huntington Woods) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 5-18-06. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 11-9-06. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 11-14-06. Passed by the Senate 11-28-06. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 11-28-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1467 of 2006

This bill would delay sunsets on the nursing home and hospital quality assurance assessment programs (QAAPs) that have been in existence for four years, to reflect agreements included in the fiscal year (FY) 2006-07 Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) budget as a way to increase net funding for providers while producing GF/GP savings for the state. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 9-20-06. Discharge Committee approved 11-9-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 11-9-06. Approved by the Discharge Committee 11-9-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 11-9-06. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 11-29-06. Passed by the Senate 11-30-06. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 11-30-06.

New Public Acts (November 13 – December 1)

(None).

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director

This electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) from the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** is available at no cost.

OSA is the designated State Unit on Aging for Michigan, as authorized by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the Older Michiganians Act of 1981. OSA advocates on behalf of individuals age 60 or older for policies, programs and services that benefit them and their families. OSA administers federal and state funds and manages grants for services provided by the aging network service providers.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, and other resources described in Resources for Aging should not be interpreted as constituting OSA endorsement. This information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

Please help spread the word about this free resource for aging to those in the aging network and others who are interested. If you or others wish to receive it directly by e-mail, send a request by e-mail to researcher/writer **David Dekker** at dekkerd@michigan.gov. Please include name, e-mail address, telephone number, city and organization/agency (if any).

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